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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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11/26/2003

Franco Moia

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02/08/2006

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EXAMINER

SHAFFER, RICKY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's election with traverse of invention I (claims 2-8, 13 and 14) and species "A", the respective images being contained in alternate areas (strips), as recited by claim 4, in the reply filed on March 03, 2005 is acknowledged. The traversal filed on 11/21/2005 is on the ground(s) that the statutory basis for a proper restriction requires two or more independent and distinct inventions. This is not found persuasive because "The law has long been established that dependent inventions...may be properly divided if they are in fact, "distinct" inventions, even though dependent" (see **MPEP 802.01**) and the criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions is (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed, and (2) there must be a serious burden on the examiner. Note: **MPEP 803**.

The restriction requirement as set forth in the communication mailed on 05/19/2005, clearly demonstrates the distinctness and burden between each of the patentably distinct inventions. Continued search and examination of claims to a non-elected invention/species including claims having substantially different structural limitations is a prima facie showing of burden. Applicant may avoid restriction by presenting an allowable linking claim or by a clear admission on the record that the non-elected invention/species is not patentably distinct from the elected invention.

Currently, claim 1 link(s) inventions I and II. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claim 1. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims

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of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

In response to applicant's statement that "successive...parallel strips", as recited by claim 5, is an example of "alternate areas", as recited by claim 4, is nonsensical and is not found persuasive due to the fact that language "successive", by definition: (1) following in order: following each other without interruption, and the language "alternate", by definition: (1) to change from one to another repeatedly. While applicant may be his or her own lexicographer, applicant can not redefine a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning. Note: *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 5, 6(5), 7(5) and 9-12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention/species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 11/21/2005.
3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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4. A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). In the present instance, claim 15 recites the broad recitation of respective images being successive alternate formed, and the claim also recites the respective images being parallel strips which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6(4), 7(4), 8, 13, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Karashev et al ('970).

Karashev et al discloses an optical component comprising at least one retarder (10, 10a, 10b) having embedded therein a plurality of images (12), which either individually or considered

together form an identifiable pattern or image (see column 4, lines 49-51 and column 6, lines 22-29), the images being so arranged in that, at any point in the plane of the component, not more than one image is present when each image is associated with a different interaction with polarized light (see column 4, line 61 to column 5, line 5 and column 7, lines 30-38), wherein the images embedded in the retarder having specific patterns (see column 4, lines 49-51, column 6, lines 22-29 and Fig. 6), wherein the images are contain in alternate areas or successive alternate areas (see figures 1-7); wherein the areas inherently have a resolution smaller than an eye of an observer can resolve (see column 4, lines 26-29 and column 6, lines 29-32), wherein at least one of the images is a photographic image (see column 6, lines 27-31), wherein their is an integral number of images (see figures 1-7), wherein the optical component protects against forgery or copying (see column 4, lines 21-30). Note Figures 1-9 and along with the associated description thereof.

7. Claims 3 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 3 and 13 are identical. Appropriate correction is required.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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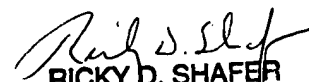
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ricky D. Shafer whose telephone number is (571) 272-2320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RDS

February 03, 2006

  
RICKY D. SHAFER  
PATENT EXAMINER  
ART UNIT ~~2872~~ 2872